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## Military Members Serve Country While Working for the Commonwealth

Pride runs deep among those who serve in the military. Add to their duties a full time state job where they serve the Commonwealth of Kentucky as well, and you have a citizen giving back two-fold.

“During Operation Iraqi Freedom we flew missions into 59 locations in 38 countries in the Middle East, Southwest Asia, Europe and Africa,” said Colonel Steve Bullard of the Kentucky Air National Guard in Louisville. Bullard was mobilized for 26 months and commanded a composite National Guard and Reserve C-130 aircraft squadron in Germany. Besides serving in the Air National Guard, Bullard works full time as the Director of Administrative Services in the Department of Military Affairs at the Boone National Guard Center.

“We regularly send out two airplanes and three crews on 17-to-45 day deployments to places like Iraq, Bosnia and Central/South America,” Bullard said. Responsible for flying in troops, gear and humanitarian supplies on C-130 cargo planes, Bullard says soldiers are quiet going in to combat zones and boisterous returning home.



Regardless your position in state government or elsewhere, he says leaving home is the greatest challenge. “One of the reasons I left active duty was because I was gone so much. I averaged 253 days on the road.” With a wife and three children, Bullard said he missed many winter holidays including two spent in the Middle East.

Now Bullard is gratified to have the best of both worlds, working in Military Affairs and in the Air National Guard. When Bullard entered state service, he said he was given a choice of several departments. He chose to stick with what he knows best: the military.

### How many Civilian/Soldiers serve the Commonwealth?

There are more than 7,600 soldiers and airmen in the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard, with nearly 1,600 currently mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Noble Eagle (the domestic homeland security mission). The vast majority have been mobilized and deployed at least once, many have deployed overseas on multiple occasions.

Due to an antiquated computer system, neither the Personnel Cabinet nor the Department of Military Affairs can give an exact number of

**(Military, continued on pg. 12)**

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## State Correctional Facilities Make Decision to go Smoke-Free

It appears the air is getting a little fresher for Kentucky’s inmate population. At least 23% of the full-service jails surveyed by the Kentucky Department of Corrections’ Division of Local Facilities report they are now completely smoke-free. Several other jailers allow it in a certain section of the facility. “I applaud these jailers for making their jails non-smoking and taking this bold move,” said Corrections

Commissioner John D. Rees. “Not only are they giving their staff and the inmates a healthier environment, they will see a significant reduction in their maintenance and sanitation costs.”

Rees noted the largest state prison, the Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange, is going smoke-free in the spring of 2006 and is currently providing a smoking cessation program to both staff and inmates.

Fifty-five of the 75 full-service jails responded to the survey: 30 report they allow smoking, 17 are smoke-free and eight only allow it in the secure section of the jail.

American Jail Association Executive Director Stephen Ingley noted recently in a National Association of Counties publication that the trend of smokeless

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(Continued on Pg. 6)

## Message from Governor Fletcher



Kentucky has landed its largest sporting event ever. Larger than the Kentucky Derby, larger than the NCAA final four, the 2010 FEI Games, World Equestrian Championships, at the Kentucky Horse Park will bring half a million tourists from around the world to our state.

In the equestrian world, the FEI World Equestrian Games are bigger and more impor-

tant than the Olympics.

When the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games were awarded in December, the sports world focused on Kentucky. Articles have been published and stories broadcast from hundreds of media outlets across the world about Kentucky and the games.

The FEI, Fédération Equestre Internationale, is the international governing body for most non-racing equine sports. The FEI chose the Kentucky Horse Park, to be the first ever non-European host of the games.

To have the commonwealth cast in a positive light by national publications such as *Forbes*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times* is exhilarating and challenging because the bar has been set high; and the games are still four years away.

Much is yet to be accomplished between now and 2010 to prepare us to receive international visitors and media. However, during a recent visit, federation officials said they thought Kentucky was so well prepared; we could host the games this September if we needed too. While they were only joking, it was a strong vote of confidence.

We plan to build a new hotel and indoor arena at the Kentucky Horse Park. The arena alone will generate \$1-million in revenue each year, with a \$56-million

annual economic impact. It will make it possible for our state to compete for national events, pre-Olympic events and also the highest caliber shows (events whose organizers would prefer to come to the Kentucky Horse Park, but are currently forced to go elsewhere with facilities that can accommodate their needs).

We can conservatively predict the new arena will immediately generate six new large shows (500 horses or more for 5-10 days) and a number of smaller shows each year. The initial projection for these events is an annual net income of \$567,000. This would be in addition to the economic impact of \$100 million from the 2010 FEI Games. The amount will grow as marketing efforts increase and as horse shows end long term contracts at other facilities in other states.

The list of targeted events for the new indoor arena represents a potential of 25,000 horses, an additional annual attendance of over 700,000 and a net income of \$3,000,000. We believe within 5 – 10 years, half of the targeted events, and/or other untargeted events will make the Kentucky Horse Park their permanent site or use the Kentucky Horse Park on their regular rotation circuit. Therefore, it is reasonable, to project an additional annual attendance of 350,000 and a net income of \$1.5 million around year five of the arena.

An additional benefit is bringing more equine related organizations to the Kentucky Horse Park to make it their permanent home. Currently, 25 horse organizations make up the National Horse Center at the park. They provide more than 250 jobs and use park facilities for their annual shows and competitions.

With the addition of the arena, and the proposed private development of a four-star hotel, representatives with two more horse organizations, have already stated they would relocate to the Kentucky Horse Park once they sell their existing facilities in other states.

This is just the beginning of what the FEI Games will mean to Kentucky. The world will be watching and we will be ready – as the world comes to Kentucky in 2010.

Thank you,  
Governor Ernie Fletcher

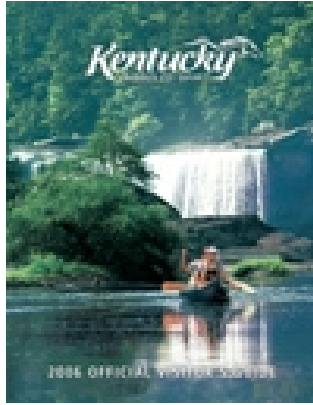
## 2006 Visitors Guide Gets A Makeover

*New Guide More User Friendly Than Ever Before*

It's now known as the Kentucky Unbridled Spirit Official Visitor's Guide, and at 178 pages, its 16 pages longer than the 2005 version, which was called the Kentucky Great Get-away Guide.

The 2006 edition is easier to use, with the state's attractions and accommodations divided into nine regions, versus four in last year's guide. Each region's attractions are earmarked with different color-coded tabs on each page. Accommodations are printed with a different background color for each region for easy recognition.

"This year's Visitor's Guide is the best one ever," said Randy Fiveash, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Tourism. "It is more user friendly, giving the intended audi-



ence, our visitors and potential visitors, a tremendous tool to use in planning a Kentucky vacation."

A separate calendar of events has been prepared and is available at the same places as the Visitor's Guide. "It has a new look, new regions, new layout and more details than previous editions," said Kathy S. Yount, managing editor of the guide and creative services manager for the Tourism Department.

The press run of the guide was 550,000 copies and they're free. You can pick up a copy at the nine welcome centers, 53 state parks, and local convention and visitors bureaus. You can also order a copy by calling 800-225-8747 or visiting [www.kentuckytourism.com](http://www.kentuckytourism.com). The new guide made its debut at the Cincinnati Travel Trade Show in January.

*Story Submitted by Commerce Cabinet*

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## State Trooper Honored With National Award



**Jon Marshall**

KSP Det. Jon Marshall was honored recently with a national award from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI). Marshall received the organization's "2005 Investigator of the Year Award" at its 16th national conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. The conference had 320 representatives from 43 states and Canada in attendance.

Charlie Cichon, executive director of NADDI, said, "Detective Marshall was presented with the award specifically for his work as lead investigator on 'Operation Special Delivery,' a multi-jurisdictional investigation into several Internet pharmacies. His direct involvement led to the seizure of \$1.5 million in property and shut down seven Internet pharmacies. "I am very proud of the great work done by Det. Marshall," says Commissioner Miller. "He utilized his training in drug investigations to locate and shut down several pharmacies that were shipping illegal prescription drugs into our communities here in Kentucky."

Operation Special Delivery was the first investigation into Internet pharmacies shipping drugs to Kentucky. It began in November 2004 with the assistance of Mike Burton, an investigator with the Office of Inspector General-Drug Enforcement. Both investigators followed up on a tip that drugs were being purchased on the Internet and shipped to Kentucky through UPS and FedEx. Det. Marshall began investigating online pharmacies that were shipping drugs mainly to eastern Kentucky. Along with other investigators, he flew to Florida and, with the assistance of the DEA and the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, served seven federal search warrants, which resulted in the closure of those pharmacies. The investigation is continuing in Florida.

As a direct result of this investigation, legislation has been passed requiring all Internet pharmacies to report any drug shipments to Kentucky to KASPER (Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting).

*Story Submitted by Kentucky State Police*

## Lieutenant Governor Awards \$2 Million To Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Groups

Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary and Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence awarded nearly \$2 million in Federal grant money to 33 different groups. The grant money was funded by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

"Violence against women is an intolerable act in which we will not except any excuse for this cowardly behavior," said Lieutenant Governor Pence. "This grant award money will help fund our efforts to fight domestic violence in our communities across the commonwealth."

Cities and counties around the commonwealth received grant money, including smaller communities like the city of Williamsburg and Garrard County for projects they are funding. Several private organizations dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence were awarded grants, including the Brenda D. Cowan Coalition for Kentucky and the Chrysalis House. Government agencies like county attorney's and the Office of the Attorney General also received funds to help in prosecution of offenders and education of victims.

The grant money will be used by victim's services groups, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and others helping victims. Some of the projects funded include legal advocacy, legal aid services, emergency shelter, sexual assault nurse examiners, therapy and other aid.

*Story Submitted by the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet*

### **RAPE - SEXUAL ASSAULT - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS:**

- Nationally 14% - 18% of all women will be raped or experience an attempted rape
- Kentucky estimates show 11.1% of women will be raped
- Estimates show only one in six rapes are ever reported to authorities
- In 2001 more than 580,000 women were victims of non-fatal violence by spouse/partner
- The health related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide by intimate partners exceed \$5.8 billion each year

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### *An Overview*

**W**e have few needs as basic as the need to feel safe in our own homes. Yet millions of people live in fear of a spouse, friend, or even their own children. If you're feeling unsafe in your own home, learn what domestic violence is, why it should be stopped and what you can do to stop it.

### **What is Domestic Violence?**

Any abuse which occurs in your own home can be called "domestic." It need not be between blood relatives. Violence includes physical assault, verbal abuse, yelling, having objects thrown at or toward a household member, or being threatened with a weapon or an object that can be used as a weapon.

### **What is Appropriate?**

Only you can determine what is or isn't appropriate behavior in your home. Understand that most people don't live in fear. Domestic violence isn't a normal situation. Tolerance of violence, even if the offender acts only under the influence of drugs or alcohol, sends a message to the offender that violence is acceptable. It's not.

### **What About The Children?**

If you have children, living with domestic violence sends a message to them that domestic violence is normal. As they reach maturity, it might not occur to them that most households are relatively peaceful, and they might accept domestic violence in their own adult households.

### **Take Action.**

You can stop violence in your own home by setting limits and being firm about what you will not tolerate. How you handle the situation depends upon the circumstances, but understand that once you set limits you must act in a consistent manner.

This information was submitted by the Kentucky Employee Assistance Program (KEAP). KEAP is a free service for all state employees. If you would like to use the services provided by KEAP you can contact them by calling (502) 564-5788 or Kentucky State Police at (502) 573-1719 or 1-800-445-5327.

## **Domestic Violence Victims say thanks!**

Thanks to Kentucky state employees, more than 1,500 mobile phones and accessories will be refurbished and sold to raise money for domestic violence victims throughout the state. The victims benefit through the many programs which support domestic violence awareness and prevention programs.

The Justice Department helped collect the phones, placing HopeLine bins around state offices, state parks, KSP posts and the capitol campus from November through January. HopeLine was created 10 years ago by Verizon Wireless as a phone recycling program to benefit victims of domestic violence. Since its inception, the program has collected more than 2.5 million phones.

Lt. Governor Steve Pence thanks employees for their "very enthusiastic response," adding, "It's encouraging to know that so many people care enough to take the time to offer these donations."



## Letter to Employees

From: Secretary Erwin Roberts,  
Personnel Cabinet



The death of civil rights pioneer Coretta Scott King happened at a time in Kentucky's history when Affirmative Action is making greater strides in the Commonwealth. With the upcoming signing of the Affirmative Action Executive Order next month, Governor Fletcher has made a new commitment that the state workforce will better represent all Kentuckians, despite race, religion, sex, national origin, veterans status and disability. The Affirmative Action Plan mandated by KRS 18A.138 ensures that all applicants and employees are afforded equal employment opportunities within state government.

The Personnel Cabinet's newly created office of Human Resource Planning and Diversity Initiatives updated the Commonwealth's Affirmative Action Plan to coincide with affirmative action goals of creating a state workforce composed of 10% minority employees and 52.42% women. These goals can change based on current population figures provided to the Personnel Cabinet and the Office of Minority Empowerment.

Like the governor, it is our hope that state employees will embrace the ideals of equal employment opportunities for all men and women in an environment free from all types of

discrimination, an environment Martin Luther King Jr. preached about time and again, most memorably in his "I have a Dream" speech.

Even though the commonwealth now has a smaller state workforce compared to January, 2003 when Governor Fletcher took office, there were .53% more minorities hired at the same time in 2006. As of February, 2006, the state employed 8.48% minorities compared to 7.95% minorities hired in 2003. Currently there are 49.68% women employed.

However, the goals behind Affirmative Action should go beyond a numbers game. As one of the commonwealth's largest employers, the state should also provide a model for private industry to improve employment practices and eradicate artificial barriers to employment.

Slowly but surely, the commonwealth is catching up to the dream of equality for all men and women in the state work force. It may take reshaping of some of our thoughts and deeds, but the bottom line is, we are all on the same team, working to move Kentucky forward with forward thinking, forward growth. Mrs. King poignantly said in a 1968 speech after her husband's death, "Civil rights struggles were for Blacks and Whites." It is this type of thinking Governor Fletcher, and hopefully now the entire state, embraces.

Sincerely,  
Secretary Erwin Roberts

### 2006 Legislative Session Information

#### Bill Watch

**Through March 27, 2006; April 10-11, 2006**

A free legislative tracking service in partnership with the Kentucky Legislature and The Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky.gov has created Bill Watch. This free service enables Kentucky.gov registered users unlimited tracking of legislation during the Kentucky Legislative Session. Register for Bill Watch at: <https://secure.kentucky.gov/portal/registration.aspx>.

### Naming the Newsletter

Congratulations to Cynthia Brown for also helping to re-name the Communiqué. Turns out Brown, as well as Leslie Saunders (who we recognized in the November edition) both won the contest for renaming the employee newsletter.

Brown works for the Office of the General Counsel in the Finance Cabinet.

For their winning suggestions, Brown and Saunders both received a two night stay at any Kentucky State Park!

Congratulations again to both ladies and thank you all for your suggestions.

## Save Easy: Deferred Compensation

“Some people are intimidated and overwhelmed when it comes to finances,” says Jolene Vanhorne, Deferred Compensation representative. “My experience is they feel nervous about what they haven’t done.” Vanhorne has worked for Deferred Comp for six years. For the last two years, she has visited each department of state government trying to educate employees about Deferred Comp. This is what Vanhorne refers to as “table day.” Every month, there are new customers. Right now, Vanhorn says 40% of the state’s employees are enrolled in Deferred Comp’s easy, tax deferred savings plan. Tax deferral means your investments have the opportunity to grow faster. You pay no federal or state taxes on the portion of your income you contribute to the plan, or on your investment earnings, until the money is paid out to you. Here’s how Deferred Comp works: Employees designate a certain amount of money to be taken out of their paychecks to be invested with the assistance of investment consultants and advisors under the direction of the Board of Trustees for Deferred Comp. Plan communication and enrollment services are performed by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Inc. and Nationwide Investment Services Corporation. The payoff is in the tax-deferred savings, plus compounded interest over time. “There is no substitution for the compounding of time. If you put a little money away for a long period of time, it adds up. You just have to start,” Vanhorn says. “Nine out of ten people I talk to said they had wished they started deferred comp sooner.” The following information taken from the Deferred Comp website is an example of how tax-deferred retirement investing can have a positive impact on your monthly income. In this example, the annual salary used is \$24,000.

	Pre-tax With DC	After-tax Without DC
Your Gross Paycheck (24 pays)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Pre-Tax DC Deferral	\$125	—
Taxable Income	\$875	\$1,000
Federal & State Taxes*		
(includes Medicare and Social Security)	\$149	\$161
After-Tax deduction	—	\$125
Discretionary Income	\$726	\$714

Participant Service Representatives like Vanhorne are authorized and licensed to explain the Deferred Compensation plans and the available investment options. They are not permitted to provide investment advice. Vanhorne says she is glad she has a job that is “meaningful and really rewarding.” In March, Deferred Comp visits will include:

March 8: Capitol Plaza Tower lobby, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

March 15: Personnel Cabinet, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

March 22: Children, Health and Family Services Building, Frankfort, 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

For more information about the services and investment opportunities offered through Deferred Comp, refer to the following webpage:

**<http://personnel.ky.gov/stemp/dc/default.htm#newsletters>**

**To inquire about when a Deferred Comp representative will visit your town, call toll free: 1-800-542-2667 or 1-800-793-4401**

*Story Submitted by Personnel Cabinet*

(Continued from pg. 1)

jails boomed about three years ago, although “it’s definitely more and more popular every day.”

“It’s no longer uncommon to find a smoke-free jail” said Ingley. “In fact, it’s very common to find that.”

Warden Larry Chandler, in distributing information to his inmate population and his more than 500 employees, cites six main reasons KSR was chosen as the pilot project for the state. Among those reasons were medical issues. Chandler says the decision to go smoke-free was a policy decision. KSR serves as the designated medical institution for the Department of Corrections. “We can’t with good conscience continue to allow inmates to aggravate their health problems with tobacco products and second hand smoke,” Chandler said.

Another reason cited was maintenance issues. Correction officials say nicotine, tar and smoke in general create serious problems for the facility’s HVAC systems. Tobacco smoke does the same thing to the mechanical systems as it does to the human lung.

Also Chandler says there are sanitation issues associated with allowing inmates to smoke in and around the facilities. The stains and residue of the by-products of tobacco have taken their toll over the years. Officials say the yard is constantly littered with cigarette butts and matches making the facility look littered.

*Story Submitted by Department of Corrections*

## DIVISION OF FORESTRY EMPLOYEE HELPING ON OKLAHOMA WILDFIRES



**Sarah Gracey**

The Oklahoma Forestry Service asked for KDF assistance over the weekend through the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Compact. Gracey spent 14 days in Oklahoma. She is the 12<sup>th</sup> KDF employee assisting with wildland fire emergencies in other states. Eleven KDF employees were assisting with the fires in Texas and returned shortly after Gracey left.

Wild fires continued to burn out of control depleting local and state resources and a long-term weather forecast showing no relief in sight prompted the Texas Forest Service and the Oklahoma Forestry Service to ask for Kentucky's help.

KDF Director and Kentucky State Forester Leah MacSwords said, "We are fortunate that wildland fire conditions in Ken-

Sarah Gracey, urban forester for the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF), recently went to Oklahoma to assist as a wildland fire information officer. While there she provided information to news reporters, local citizens and officials, and firefighters battling the Oklahoma wildfires.

*(Continued on Pg. 9)*

## Free Web Site Helps Kentuckians Find Affordable Rental Housing

Kentuckians now have a free Web site, called ***Kentucky Rents***. The site offers an up-to-date directory of affordable rental housing within the state.

By visiting [www.kyrents.org](http://www.kyrents.org), potential renters can search for rental housing using criteria such as size, location, price and move-in date. Users can also narrow their search to assisted, elderly or handicapped-accessible housing. The property listings may include photographs of the unit, along with information about parking, amenities, proximity to schools, grocery stores and public transportation.

The site, which was created by Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), is also a great tool for property owners who wish to advertise their vacant units. *Kentucky Rents* allows them to list much more information than a typical classified ad in a newspaper or apartment guide.

Best of all, the site is provided as a service to all Kentuckians and is *completely free* for both property owners/managers and potential renters.

"It's not always easy for the typical working family to search for rental housing," said Ben A. Cook, KHC's chief executive officer. "Rental offices are often open only during the day, and it can be inconvenient – and sometimes costly – for someone to take off work. *Kentucky Rents* allows people to research properties 24 hours a day."

For more information about *Kentucky Rents*, contact Doug Wade at (502) 564-7630, extension 258, or e-mail at [dwade@kyhousing.org](mailto:dwade@kyhousing.org).

*Story Submitted by Kentucky Housing*

## KSP Honors Troopers for DUI Arrests

Seventeen KSP troopers were among 185 law enforcement officers from 164 agencies across the state recognized for outstanding achievement at the 2005 Governor's Impaired Driving Enforcement Awards ceremony held Dec. 6 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington.

KSP Commissioner Miller joined Connie Beasley, regional program manager with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Atlanta, in presenting the awards for extraordinary efforts in reducing impaired driving. Of the 27,874 impaired driving arrests made by these law enforcement agencies during the past year, these officers were responsible for 6,164 arrests.

"Traffic enforcement campaigns have a direct impact on impaired driving by taking potential killers off the road. The officers receiving these awards are to be commended for the lives they have helped to save," said Miller.

KSP troopers receiving awards included: Harvey Baxter, Post 1, (86 arrests); Daniel Morck, Post 2, (141 arrests); Jonathan McGehee, Post 3, (39 arrests); Rodger Waters, Post 4, (61 arrests); Jonathan Biven, Post 5 (48 arrests); Delzie Kelly, Post 6, (56 arrests);

Dennis Mabry, Post 6, (56 arrests); Toby Coyle, Post 7, (65 arrests);

Chris Hollon, Post 8, (99 arrests); Steven Brad Hamilton, Post 9, (57 arrests); Jimmy Young, II, Post 10, (111 arrests); Nicholas Metcalf, Post 11, (175 arrests); Hunter Martin, Post 12, (73 arrests); Everett Earl Whitaker, Post 13, (52 arrests); Shane Goodall, Post 14, (93 arrests); Jeremy Johnson, Post 15, (56 arrests) and Sean McKinney, Post 16, (91 arrests).

Three KSP posts received awards Division VI of the 2005 Law Enforcement Challenge. This program involved the performance of law enforcement agencies during driving enforcement mobilizations, which ran from May 23 through Sept. 5, 2005. The awards criteria included citation activities for speeding, impaired driving, seat belt usage and child restraint violations.

Post 11 took first place honors with 1,157 DUI arrests, followed by Post 9 with 880 and Post 4 with 616.



*Story Submitted by Kentucky State Police*

## Capital Plaza Offers Recycling Program

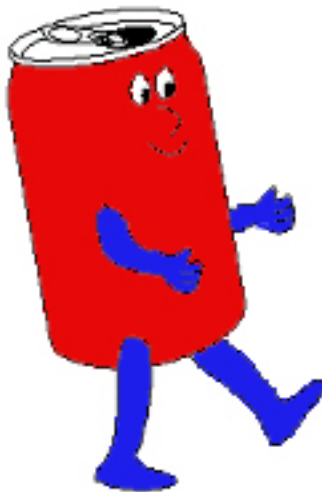


## Do the Tower Two-Step...

1. Rinse
2. Recycle

...for Charity's

sake.



This recycling program helps create jobs for people with disabilities through *Frankfort Habilitation*. For more information, go to <http://www.waste.ky.gov/Art> compliments of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

*Story Submitted by Environmental & Public Protection Cabinet*

Plastic and aluminum recycling bins are being placed on each floor of the Capital Plaza Tower in Frankfort for recycling of beverage containers by state employees and visitors.

This is a pilot project – *Rinse and Recycle – for Charity's Sake* – initiated by LaJuana S. Wilcher, secretary of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet (EPPC).

"We expect the program to be a success and to mark the beginning of many successful partnerships between state agencies and charitable organizations," Secretary Wilcher said.

Frankfort Habilitation, which provides services to people with developmental disabilities within a work-related environment, will do the recycling at the Tower. Proceeds from sales of used containers will benefit its nonprofit program.

Tower employees are being urged to rinse their beverage containers before placing in the bins. Even one-fourth can of soda can make the entire bag worthless for sale by Frankfort Habilitation.

EPPC's Division of Waste Management will provide overall management of the new Rinse and Recycle program. Since December 1980, the division has operated a paper recycling program for Frankfort-based state employees.

For more information about the recycling programs, go to the division Web site <http://www.waste.ky.gov/> or contact Sara Evans at (502) 564-6716, [Sara.Evans@ky.gov](mailto:Sara.Evans@ky.gov)

## Spay-Neuter Vouchers No Longer Being Issued

Vouchers to help low-income families spay and neuter their pets are no longer being issued because funding for the program has run out.

The pilot project was launched in July 2005 with \$100,000 of funding. It enabled pet owners with low incomes to apply for vouchers to have their pets spayed or neutered and vaccinated for rabies for only a \$10 co-pay.

Families with unused vouchers still may use their vouchers to have their pets spayed or neutered.

The pilot project was one of two approved by the Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board and administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The other project offers grants of up to \$5,000 for local governments and nonprofit organizations to conduct spay and neuter programs in their communities. It also received \$100,000. The funding for both projects came from proceeds from sales of the spay and neuter specialty license plate.

More than 150 Kentucky veterinarians participated in the projects. The spay and neuter license plate is available for an initial fee of \$25 and an annual renewal fee of \$20. To get the plate, apply at your county clerk's office.

*Story Submitted by Department of Agriculture*



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## Under Fletcher Administration Medical Program Saves Taxpayers Millions

As a result of an innovative partnership which has prospered under Governor Fletcher's administration, Kentucky taxpayers now pay almost 40 percent less for inmate medical care. These savings translate into more than \$9 million in the first full fiscal year, and those savings are expected to continue.

"We have successfully managed to increase efficiency in medical care for prisoners, while concurrently lessening the burden on taxpayers," said Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence, who is also Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. "I am confident this partnership will continue to evolve and assist the state as we face future challenges in inmate health care matters."

The Kentucky Corrections Health Services Network (KCHSN) is a collaboration between the Kentucky Department of Corrections, the University of Kentucky and a private sector health management firm based in Lexington, CorrectCare. KCHSN is a statewide health network that provides for the hospital and specialty care for more than 18,000 state inmates across the state. Prior to the partnership, the 13 prisons and 75 jails across the state decided individually how to provide health-care services.

"This important initiative is just one more example of how the University of Kentucky is reaching out beyond the classroom to help change Kentucky for the better. An important part of our mission – and how we plan to become a Top 20 public research university – is forming partnerships across the commonwealth to improve health care and education and create economic opportunity," said UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. "We applaud the leadership of Gov. Fletcher, Lt. Gov. Pence and his team for helping create this innovative collaboration that is saving Kentucky millions of dollars and improving the efficient delivery of health care."

This same network is now reaching into the next phase of inmate medical care as it recently launched a new wireless electronic medical record system. The system is up and running at four of the state's prisons and a fifth prison should be online within a few weeks.

The wireless electronic network is projected to save the Corrections Department over \$350,000 per year, but more importantly will reduce the threat to public safety by cutting down on the number of times inmates are transported out of prisons and jails to see the doctor. These electronic consultations, when able to be used, will cost far less than an actual specialist visit and still provide quality care for the inmate without utilizing valuable staff time and resources.

"The aging prison population, coupled with the medical implications of a long history of substance abuse, makes controlling medical costs one of the most difficult tasks I face as commissioner of Corrections," said John D. Rees. "Our partnership with UK and CorrectCare these two years has been extremely rewarding and while overall expenditures for health care have grown, we have been able to reduce our rate of growth and bring about significant reductions in certain areas. This public-private partnership offers continuing opportunities for savings and innovations." Statewide implementation of the wireless network is expected by April 1.

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(Continued from Pg. 7) KDF

tucky have improved, which allowed us to provide these resources." The multistate compact enables member states to share wildland firefighters and equipment in times of need.

*Story submitted by Division of Forestry*

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## SIMPSON COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES EPA AWARD

Simpson County Water District, recognized for excellence in its public communications regarding the quality of local drinking water, received an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Feb. 23rd.

The 2005 Consumer Confidence Report Excellence Award was presented to the district in a ceremony in Franklin.

EPA initiated the award to highlight water systems that demonstrate effective public communications. Simpson County Water District is the first in Kentucky to receive the award.

Water suppliers are required to prepare annual water quality reports - consumer confidence reports or drinking water quality reports - for customers. Reports must contain information about the source of the water, susceptibility to pollution, levels of contaminants found, potential health effects of those contaminants, the water system's compliance with water-related rules, educational statements on several contaminants and sources for additional information.

Nominations were solicited in six categories, from small systems serving as few as 25 people up to those serving more than 10,000. Surface water and ground water systems were included.

Simpson County Water District, in south central Kentucky, won in the Medium Surface Water category. The system purchases water from Whitehouse, Tenn., and distributes it to approximately 9,100 people.

*Story submitted by Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet*



Rodger Bingham, center, chats with a group of his fans from his appearance on the television series “Survivor” during a Kentucky Proud campaign launch in Remke’s Market in Hebron on December 17. Bingham is Deputy Executive Director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Office of Marketing and Product Promotion. Remeke sells more than 250 items of Kentucky Proud food products.

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## Direct Deposit Makes Payday Easier for State Employees

Direct Deposit is a convenient, efficient benefit offered to employees. With direct deposit, there’s no worry your check might be lost before it is deposited or cashed at your bank. If you are not at work on payday, there’s no need to go to work in order to pick up your check or to wait for its delivery in the mail. Your money is immediately available for use at the time of deposit.

To sign up for direct deposit, you will need to complete a Direct Deposit form. The form can be obtained from your payroll officer or online at <http://personnel.ky.gov/NR/ronlyres/0DC67190-DCE4-437B-A961-B02F6AE94B19/0/upps15w.pdf>. This form can be completed by you or your financial institution. The form is then given to your payroll officer, and direct deposit will begin within 1 to 2 paydays.

With direct deposit, you can have your paycheck deposited in any of the following ways:

- 100% of the net check to a savings account
- 100% of the net check to a checking account
- A flat dollar amount to a savings account, with the remainder of the net check to a checking account, with both accounts at one bank
- A flat dollar amount to a savings account at one bank, with the remainder of the net check going to a checking account at a different bank

When you complete your form, you will be asked for a series of numbers that identifies the accounts to which your check will be deposited. The 9 digit number at the bottom left hand side of the check is your financial institution’s routing number. The next set of digits in this line of code should be your checking account number.

Be certain not to include your check number (501 in example), which usually follows the checking account number, in the account number you put on the form. Please be aware that deposit slips are not valid sources of routing and account information, as the information at the bottom of a deposit slip is coded to identify it as a deposit slip.

To complete the information for a savings account direct deposit, you will need to take your routing and account information from either a bank statement or verify the information with your bank. Again, savings deposit slips are not valid sources of routing and account information, as the information at the bottom of a deposit slip is coded to identify it as a deposit slip.

If you wish to stop a direct deposit, please give your payroll officer a week or more advance notice. Action can be taken to attempt to stop the funds from being sent direct deposit to your bank, but this involves various steps and can result in the delayed issuance of a “real” paper check.

To find out more information, please contact your payroll officer.

## Four Troopers Presented with Medal of Valor

Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher joined Kentucky State Police Commissioner Mark L. Miller in awarding five Kentucky State Police troopers with "The Governor's Medal of Valor" during a ceremony in Frankfort, Ky. on December 20, 2005.

Governor Fletcher bestowed the award on Troopers Ricky J. Conn and Bradley G. Cure for their efforts to save the lives of those affected by a gas line explosion in Ivel, November 8, 2004. Trooper Conn was severely burned during the rescues and required months of medical treatment before his return to work in early May 2005.

The governor also recognized the heroic acts of Captain William Sullivan and Troopers Barry M. Blair and Thomas A. Pyzik during a hostage rescue in Cumberland County on September 23, 2003. Pyzik, who is on active military duty in Iraq, was represented by his wife, Ragean, at the ceremony

"There have only been 11 recipients of this award in the history of the Kentucky State Police. (KSP) Today we add five new names to that list," said Governor Fletcher. "These officers have distinguished themselves by the heroic acts they carried out under the most extreme circumstances. Their direct and brave actions not only distinguished themselves amongst their fellow officers, but also saved the lives of the victims involved in each of their uncommon situations. The character and professionalism of these officers is a testament for every member of the Kentucky State Police. I am proud to know the commonwealth is made safer each day by selfless individuals, driven to serve, such as these fine officers."



KSP Comm. Mark Miller, Det. Ricky Conn, Trpr. Bradley Cure, Ragean Pyzik, Capt. Bill Sullivan, Trpr. Barry Blair, Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

The Governor's Medal of Valor is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a KSP officer for conspicuous heroism in the line of duty under circumstances of extreme personal hazard and is awarded only by order of the Governor of the Commonwealth. KSP policy requires:

1. The officer acted in the face of extreme personal danger without hesitation or regard for his own life and well being.
2. Said officer undertook the action willingly and with full knowledge of the grave risks attendant thereto.
3. Said act of heroism was so clearly above and beyond the call or risk of ordinary duty and so conspicuous an example of personal courage that any lesser award would be considered both inadequate and inappropriate.

"This is a proud day for the men and women of the Kentucky State Police," remarked KSP Commissioner Mark L. Miller. "Although troopers do not perform their duties seeking praise, recognition or award, some acts, such as these recognized today, are clearly above and beyond the call or risk of ordinary duty and deserve public acknowledgement."

*Story Submitted by Kentucky State Police*

## PORK PRODUCERS HONOR KDA'S BEELER, BOONE

Warren Beeler of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture was inducted into the Kentucky Pork Producers Association Hall of Fame during the association's recent convention. Rayetta Boone, another KDA staff member, received the Outstanding Service Award at the convention Jan. 27-28 in Owensboro.

"Congratulations to Warren and Rayetta for these well-deserved honors," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Warren is one of the most respected figures in the swine industry in the United States. He and Rayetta both work hard for the Department's youth programs, helping Kentucky's young people learn and grow through agriculture. I'm proud to be associated with them."

Beeler, of Caneyville, joined 15 others in the state pork producers shrine. A longtime swine producer, former KPPA president and nationally renowned swine judge, Beeler is assistant director of the KDA's Division of Value-Added Animal and Aquaculture Produc-

Boone, a resident of Taylorsville, was honored for her work as assistant director of the KDA's Division of Agriculture Education, Farm Safety and Farmland Preservation. The division administers the Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom program and the Mobile Science Activity Center. Last fall the division launched "Agriculture Adventures: Kentucky," an entertaining and educational program that teaches agriculture's role in everyday life.

"Rayetta has dedicated her entire life to teaching young people about the importance of agriculture," Ovesen said.

*Story Submitted by Department of Agriculture*

(Continued from Pg. 1)



how many soldiers also work for the state, but personnel reports do show that 95 state employees took military leave in 2004 and 80 state workers took military leave in 2005. Both Personnel and Military Affairs office staff estimate there are many more who serve our state and our country.

At the Department of Military Affairs alone, there are close to 130 state employees and nearly 320 federal employees who work at the Boone National Guard Center, the headquarters for the Kentucky Air and Army National Guard. That doesn't count another approximate 470 state Department of Military Affairs employees spread across the Commonwealth at some 50 other locations.

### **Lori Taylor in Kuwait**

Lori Taylor, for example, is a Supply Technician with the 2123<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company at the Blue Grass Station in Lexington. Her job is to issue military uniforms. Taylor also serves in the National Guard and works full time for the Department of Defense for the Federal Government. She returned from Kuwait in February, 2005 after being stationed there for 13 months. Her worst memory: not mortar fire, but rodents.

"We had lots of rats," Taylor remembers. "It was hot. I lived in the motor pool and they (the rats) lived in the motor pool with us. They lived under the tents and they would come up under the wooden floors at night." To this day Taylor says she still has nightmares about the rats she describes as big as house cats. She woke up with a rat in her bed one night. That was it; walls were built in her tent and the rats became history.

Taylor says, "The hardest part of being away from America was being trapped in a five square mile area for a year, not being able to get up and go when I wanted to." She adds, thank goodness for work buddies back in the states who sent care packages. Taylor called them a few times, but found that e-mail was cheaper and much easier to keep in touch.

### **Co-workers filling in the gaps**

Co-workers of guard members usually feel the pinch when their teammates are called to duty, usually between six months and a year. "I know the technicians force has literally been cut in half because of everyone being deployed," Taylor says. Three people in her unit recently returned to their civilian jobs. Two more left when she returned last February.

Particularly in wartime, Taylor says, "It's nice to be able to go and do something to serve your country." Her wish for fellow Americans is simply to show respect and gratitude for those who serve.

When soldiers return to civilian life, there is a readjustment phase for them and possibly some of their co-workers who may have taken on some of their duties. An open door and open arms of understanding are recommended to ensure a quick transition back home.

Once home, these double-duty soldiers know they can be called to service again at a moment's notice. Ready or not, they go.

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